Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-46. (Canceled)

47. (Previously Presented) A therapeutic device intended for substantially fully intracorporeal insertion for treatment of an obstruction in the prostatic portion of a male urethra, comprising:

a non-biodegradable element that is designed to be placed and retained in a prostatic portion of the male urethra to maintain a channel, said element being sufficiently flexible to conform to the urethra, but sufficiently rigid to maintain the channel for urine flow in the prostatic portion, the channel providing for passage of urine from upstream of the obstruction to downstream of the obstruction; and

a cytoreductive agent that causes reduction of the obstruction, said cytoreductive agent being positioned along said element, so as to treat the obstruction of the prostatic portion of the male urethra when said element is retained in the prostatic portion of the male urethra,

wherein said element comprises a bottom end and a top end, and wherein said cytoreductive agent is positioned between said bottom end and said top end of said element,

wherein said top end of said element is blind, and includes at least one perforation in order to ensure the passage of urine, and

wherein said device further comprises a withdrawal thread and is non-traumatically removable from the male urethra by said withdrawal thread following treatment of the obstruction.

48-83. (Canceled)

84. (Previously Presented) A therapeutic device intended for substantially fully intracorporeal insertion for treatment of an obstruction in a natural lumen through which a fluid naturally flows, comprising:

a non-biodegradable element that is designed to be placed and retained in the natural lumen to maintain a channel, said element being sufficiently flexible to conform to the natural lumen, but sufficiently rigid to maintain the channel for flow of the fluid in the lumen, the channel providing for passage of the fluid from upstream of the obstruction to downstream of the obstruction with respect to natural fluid flow; and

a cytoreductive agent that causes reduction of the obstruction, said cytoreductive agent being positioned along said element, so as to treat the obstruction of the natural lumen when said element is retained in the natural lumen,

wherein said element comprises a bottom end and a top end, and wherein said cytoreductive agent is positioned between said bottom end and said top end of said element,

wherein said top end of said element is blind, and includes at least one perforation in order to ensure the passage of the fluid, and

wherein said device further comprises a withdrawal thread and is non-traumatically removable from the natural lumen by said withdrawal thread following treatment of the obstruction.

85. (Previously Presented) A therapeutic device intended for substantially fully intracorporeal insertion for treatment of an obstruction in a natural lumen through which a fluid naturally flows, comprising:

a non-biodegradable element that is designed to be placed and retained in the natural lumen to maintain a channel, said element being sufficiently flexible to conform to the natural lumen, but sufficiently rigid to maintain the channel for flow of the fluid in the lumen,

the channel providing for passage of the fluid from upstream of the obstruction to downstream of the obstruction with respect to natural fluid flow;

a cytoreductive agent that causes reduction of the obstruction, said cytoreductive agent being positioned along said element, so as to treat the obstruction of the natural lumen when said element is retained in the natural lumen; and

an other element attached to said non-biodegradable element by a flexible connection,

wherein said device further comprises a withdrawal thread and is non-traumatically removable from the natural lumen by said withdrawal thread following treatment of the obstruction.

86. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 85, wherein said other element does not comprise or support a cytoreductive agent.

87. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 85, wherein said other element comprises a core made of a biocompatible but non-biodegradable material.

88. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 87, wherein said biocompatible but non-biodegradable material of said other element is silicone rubber.

89. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 85, wherein at least a portion of said other element is radially expandable.

90. (Previously Presented) A method of treating an obstruction of a natural lumen, comprising inserting said device of claim 85 into the obstructed natural lumen so that said element is positioned in contact with the obstruction, thereby opening the obstructed natural lumen and allowing normal passage of the fluid.

91. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 90, wherein said cytoreductive agent causes a reduction in the obstruction.

92. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 91, wherein said cytoreductive agent causes the reduction in the obstruction when in direct contact with the obstruction.

93. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 92, wherein said cytoreductive agent gradually ceases to cause the reduction in the obstruction as direct contact of said device with the obstruction ceases.

94. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 91, further comprising removing said device once sufficient reduction has occurred that the natural lumen can function normally in the absence of said device.

95. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 91, wherein the obstruction is a tumoral obstruction.

96. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 95, wherein said cytoreductive agent erodes the tumoral obstruction.

97. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 90, further comprising temporarily maintaining said device in the natural lumen and then removing said device from the natural lumen.

98-124. (Canceled)

125. (Currently Amended) A therapeutic device intended for being substantially fully located in a natural lumen through which a fluid naturally flows, said fluid flow being controlled by a sphincter through said lumen, said device comprising:

a non-biodegradable tubular bio-active element that is designed to be placed in at least an obstructed part of said natural lumen, upstream of said sphincter, said element having a substantially continuous wall and external surface and being sufficiently flexible to conform to said lumen, but sufficiently rigid to maintain a channel for flow of the fluid in the lumen, said wall being fluid-tight with respect to said natural fluid flow, and said channel

providing for passage of the fluid flow from upstream of the obstruction to downstream of the obstruction with respect to said natural fluid flow;

said bio-active element being retained in the downstream direction by said sphincter, and in the upstream direction by retaining means linked to said element and to be placed in said lumen downstream of said sphincter, wherein said retaining means is not therapeutically active;

said bio-active element comprising a therapeutic agent that causes reduction of the obstruction supported by and arranged around and along said element to be delivered by contact between said external surface and said obstruction; and

said device being arranged to be inserted into and removed from said lumen in a substantially non-traumatic manner.

126. (Previously Presented) A device as claimed in claim 125, wherein the lumen is a male urethra and the obstructed part is the prostatic portion of said urethra.

127. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 125, wherein the therapeutic agent is a cytoreductive agent.

128. (Previously Presented) A therapeutic device intended for being substantially fully located in a natural lumen through which a fluid naturally flows, said fluid flow being controlled by a sphincter through said lumen, said device comprising:

a non-biodegradable tubular element that is designed to be placed in at least an obstructed part of said natural lumen, upstream of said sphincter, said element having a substantially continuous wall and external surface and being sufficiently flexible to conform to said lumen, but sufficiently rigid to maintain a channel for flow of the fluid in the lumen, said channel providing for passage of the fluid flow from upstream of the obstruction to downstream of the obstruction with respect to said natural fluid flow;

said element being retained in the downstream direction by said sphincter, and in the upstream direction by retaining means linked to said element and to be placed in said lumen downstream of said sphincter;

said element comprising a therapeutic agent that causes reduction of the obstruction supported by and arranged around and along said element to be delivered by contact between said external surface and said obstruction; and

said device being arranged to be inserted into and removed from said lumen in a substantially non-traumatic manner, said device comprising a withdrawal thread at its downstream end, arranged for the non-traumatic removal of said device.

129. (Canceled)

130. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 125, wherein said natural lumen is the prostatic portion of a male urethra.

131. (Previously Presented) A method of treating an obstruction of a natural lumen, comprising inserting said device of claim 125 into the obstructed natural lumen so that said element is positioned in contact with the obstruction, thereby opening the obstructed natural lumen and allowing the normal passage of the fluid.

132. (Previously Presented) A method for treating an obstruction in the prostatic portion of a male urethra, comprising inserting said device of claim 130 into the obstructed portion of the male urethra, thereby opening the obstructed urethra and allowing normal passage of urine.

133. (Canceled)

134. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 85, wherein said natural lumen is the prostatic portion of a male urethra.

135. (Previously Presented) A method for treating an obstruction in the prostatic portion of a male urethra, comprising inserting said device of claim 134 into the obstructed

portion of the male urethra, thereby opening the obstructed urethra and allowing normal passage of urine.

136-140. (Canceled)